Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DRC-01 L-03 SSO-00 /030 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6373

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FOR DEP SECY CHRISTOPHER FROM SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: AINF

SUBJ: PRIVACY ACT LITIGATION-NASSAR AFSHAR

REF: STATE 7131

1. I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO REF CONCERNING THE PRIVACY ACT LITIGATION OF NASSAR AFSHAR WHICH REOUESTS ANSWERS TO A THIRD SET OF INTERROGATORIES CONCERNING THE PROCESSING OF HIS PRIVACY/FOIA REQUEST. THIS EMBASSY, AND PRESUMABLY THE DEPARTMENT, HAS SPENT AN EXTRAORDINARILY EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF TIME RESPONDING TO EARLIER INTERROGATORIES AND IT STRIKES US THAT WE ARE NOW BEING SUBJECTED TO UNWARRANTED HARASSMENT ON QUESTIONS UNRELATED TO THE SUBSTANCE OF AFSHAR'S COMPLAINT. I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE SENIOR-LEVEL OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT TO EXAMINE WITH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS THE FEASIBILITY OF RESPONDING TO THIS THIRD SET OF INTERROGATORIES BY CITING THEIR IRRELEVANCE AND IMMATERIALITY TO THE CENTRAL ISSUES INVOLVED. AFSHAR APPARENTLY IS ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A CASE OF USG DECEPTION AND/OR CONSPIRACY AGAINST HIM WHICH, AT LEAST AS FAR AS THIS EMBASSY IS CONCERNED, IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE. WE HAVE RESPONDED TO PREVIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERROGATORIES IN COMPLETE GOOD FAITH. THE FACT THAT WE BELATEDLY DISCOVERED SEVERAL DOCUMENTS IN OUR VOLUMINOUS AND DECENTRALIZED FILES RELATING TO AFSHAR IN NO WAY DETRACTS FROM OUR CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORTS TO BE FULLY RESPONSIVE TO EARLIER REQUESTS. SULLIVAN

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